

March 29, 2019

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Floyd Prozanski

Senator Kim Thatcher

Senator Cliff Bentz

Senator Sara Gelser

Senator Dennis Linthicum

Senator James Manning Jr.

FROM: Teresa Burns

DATE: March 30, 2019

Please accept this letter as my formal testimony for SB 978

Let me introduce myself, my name is Teresa Burns, I reside in Dallas Oregon. I am a registered gun owner, and am concerned about SB 978. The bill is vague on many levels. What will the study result in, how will this affect my gun rights, what measures will be taken to enact enforcement of findings, how many amendments will be added to this bill that may not be there now?

I find the Amendment 6 (see below) a direct violation of my right to bear arms, and how I store them. To date my family has been robbed 5 times of property outside our home and broken into cars. One resulted in the loss of construction equipment totalling several thousand dollars. We had to pay to get our trailer out of tow, so not only were we violated by the criminal who stole from us, we had to pay to get our property back which left us feeling like we were the criminals and not the person who stole from us. We secured camera's and this has assisted police in 3 arrests. One of suspects had come directly onto our front porch, five minutes after my son arrived home from work. If I am forced to secure or lock my weapons in any way and they had broken into the home, I would be fumbling in the dark to try to either unlock from a box or cable, who has the advantage here? Am I not allowed to protect my family or home from invasion? Why do I become a criminal by the actions of someone else? I did not hold a gun to their head and force them to be a criminal, I did not assist them in anyway in their theft. Make them responsible NOT ME.

**“SECTION 6. (1)(a) A person who owns or possesses a firearm shall,
at all times that the firearm is not carried by or under the control of
the person or an authorized person, secure the firearm:**

“(A) With an engaged trigger lock or cable lock that meets or exceeds the minimum specifications

established by the Oregon Health

Authority under section 10 of this 2019 Act;

“(B) In a locked container, equipped with a tamper-resistant lock, that meets or exceeds the minimum specifications established by the Oregon Health Authority under section 10 of this 2019 Act; or

“(C) In a gun room.

“(b) For purposes of paragraph (a) of this subsection, a firearm is not secured if a key, combination or other means of opening a lock or container is readily available to a person the owner or possessor has not authorized to carry or control the firearm.

“(2)(a) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is a Class C violation.

“(b) Each firearm owned or possessed in violation of subsection (1) of this section constitutes a separate violation.

“(3) If a person obtains an unsecured firearm as a result of the owner or possessor of a firearm violating subsection (1) of this section and the firearm is used to injure a person or property within two years of the violation, the owner or possessor of the firearm who violated subsection (1) of this section is strictly liable for the injury.

In my 62 years on earth, I have never felt my rights being more infringed upon as I do at this moment. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: **"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."** I believe this and any other gun bill is infringing on my basic right to own fire arms and ammo of my choice. . I am concerned about this bill being the first step in disarming me and fellow gun owners, which by the 2nd Amendment is unconstitutional. There are so many Amendments to read through it scares me what I am missing.

I ask you to think about this, do you believe that laws and legislation will stop criminals? Do you believe it will make an immoral person moral? Is it your belief that banning firearms and ammunition will stop the criminals from purchasing them? This is fact:

Prohibition in the United States was a nationwide constitutional ban on the production, importation,

transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages from 1920 to 1933. Why was it repealed?

Tens of thousands of people died because of prohibition-related violence and drinking unregulated booze. The big experiment came to an end in 1933 when the Twenty-first Amendment was ratified by 36 of the 48 states. ... One of the main reasons Prohibition was repealed was because it was an unenforceable policy. You may think this is not relevant to gun laws, the point is history repeats itself and I believe you will be creating an opportunity for black market on guns and ammo. And just like drugs you will have a bigger problem to face. To close I ask you think hard on enacting gun laws that could take guns and ammo out of the hands of good guys, and leave them in the hands of the bad guys.

Thank you for your time

Teresa E Burns